

The Baltimore Campaign for Grade-Level Reading

3rd GRADE READING SUCCESS MATTERS

“Today
a reader.
Tomorrow
a leader.”

- Margaret Fuller



What's Happening

Dear Grade Level Reading Coalition:

I hope this message finds you well. Over the last month, we've continued to plan for our summer initiatives, convened a group of stakeholders to focus on increasing literacy rich environments for children ages 0-8 in the city, and made progress on our communication and engagement strategy.

*We'll share more details on all of this below and will give a full update at our next Coalition Meeting on **Wednesday, March 4th from 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM at The Family League of Baltimore.** I hope to see you all there!*

If you have any questions in the meantime, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

In Partnership,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kimberly Mame".

Coalition Spotlight: Conversations About Reading Blog

Over the next few months, the Campaign is on a mission to highlight what Baltimore citizens think we can do to help kids read. Last week, we spoke with Marilyn Hage from the Enoch Pratt Free Library's Book Buggy Program. She visits day care, Head Start and WIC sites in order to bring literacy activities to families throughout the city. If you missed the video, you can watch it [here](#).

This week, we spoke with Lauren Snyder, Academics and Evaluation Coordinator at The Village Learning Place. Learn what she does to help kids read on our [Facebook page](#). Please help us spark discussion by commenting on the post and by [sharing](#) and re-tweeting (link for twitter [here](#)).



Our Literacy Rich Environments Work

At the last Coalition Meeting, a small group met to begin GLR's strategy for creating literacy rich environments at home, in school and in the community for all children ages 0-8. Since then, we have continued to work with several coalition members including the Maryland Book Bank, Raising A Reader and the Enoch Pratt Free Library, to create a framework for literacy rich environments, which includes ensuring all children have access to books, quality reading time that engages them and the appropriate dosage of daily reading. It also ensures quality support for those facilitating the reading time. The diagram below details the four focus areas of the work. At the next Coalition Meeting, we will share an update on this framework and discuss immediate opportunities to test and evaluate ways we can increase access to literacy rich environments at home, in school and in the community.



Our Communication & Engagement Work



Over the past month, we've conducted focus groups with families, 2nd and 3rd graders, service providers and community leaders to test communications concepts developed by the MICA School of Social Design.

Key insights from the focus groups include:

- Families whose parents modeled reading when they were younger are more likely to read themselves and are more likely to stress the importance of reading with their children*
- Reading is a fundamental part of survival (i.e.- children need to be able to read a stop sign to cross the street or read directions to make a meal if their caregiver isn't home)*
- Children and parents need to have a vision for their future and see how reading can help them achieve that vision*

- *Storytelling is an important part of the culture in Baltimore and Baltimore citizens should be encouraged to write down and tell their stories as a way to encourage literacy in the city*
- *Encouraging family literacy is essential to rallying a city of readers*
- *Kids are motivators and should be utilized to convey the importance of reading to their parents*

In the next month, we will finish pre-testing concepts and begin to draft an overall communications plan for Grade Level Reading based on the feedback we've received. We look forward to sharing more of this work at our next Coalition Meeting on Wednesday, March 4th at The Family League.

Baltimore's Promise

Baltimore's **PROMISE**

Baltimore's Promise, a cradle to career collective impact initiative, launched their work groups last week. Over 100 local leaders in Baltimore will participate in these work groups focused on Healthy Babies, Kindergarten Readiness, Grade Level Achievement, High School Graduation, Career Readiness, and Data. Grade Level Reading is happy to be part of the Healthy Babies, Kindergarten Readiness, Grade Level Achievement and Data work groups. We look forward to our partnership with Baltimore's Promise and to supporting the work.

Super Summer Provider Resource Fair— Save the Date



*The Family League of Baltimore invites you to attend the Super Summer Resource Fair on **Thursday, February 26th from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM at the 29th Street Community Center (300 E. 29th Street, 21218)**. Sponsored by the Mayor and City of Baltimore in partnership with the Family League of Baltimore City, the Maryland Out of School Time (MOST) Network, and the Baltimore Campaign for Grade Level Reading, the Super Summer Resource Fair will connect summer providers to resources supporting high-quality summer programming.*

This event is open to all Baltimore City summer providers and will include information and presentations on different summer resources (e.g. the Maryland Science Center, Inclusion Experts, and Enoch Pratt Free Libraries). There will be organizations that host field trips, subcontractors that specialize in the arts, STEM, and other enrichment, and agencies such as City Schools and MOED who can answer your questions about summer 2015. If you are applying for summer funding this is an opportunity to identify possible partners to include in your application. To RSVP, please click [here](#).

Highlights From the National Campaign



- *In Palacios, Texas, a local task force, led by the community's Grade Level Reading Campaign, launched the Palacios Community Hub, which serves as a center for educational, recreational, health and family activities. To learn more, [click here](#).*
- *After identifying parent engagement as an essential part of their school readiness strategy, the Colorado Grade Level Reading Campaign, facilitated two parent engagement programs. To learn more, [click here](#).*